

[18 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Proper lining of canals and judicious use of water are being advocated to mitigate this problem. In order to check soil erosion, bio-engineering measures have been suggested. Integrated use of natural resources and introduction of legumes in cropping system are also being popularised to sustain higher productivity. Under the National Watershed Development Programme of the Ministry of Agriculture, which, inter alia, includes enhancement of agricultural productivity in a sustainable manner, an area of 35,520 ha. in Haryana and 19,792 ha. in Punjab has been treated so far.

Strengthening H.P. State Pollution Control Board

2810. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for strengthening institutional framework of H.P. State Pollution Control Board under the World Bank assistance programme;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the views of Himachal Pradesh Government in the matter; and

(c) by when the said proposal is to be materialised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Under the World Bank funded Environment Management Capacity Building Project, the Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board is being strengthened. The following activities are included:— (1) Zoning Atlas for Siting of Industries (2) Industrial Estate Planning (3) Environmental Management Plan (4) Sustainable Tourism Development in Hilly Areas (5) Strengthening of air quality monitoring stations. The activities are proposed to be completed by 2003.

Controlling Forest Fire in Garhwal and Kumaon Mandals

† 2811. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 1700 given in the Rajya Sabha on 10th March, 2000 and state:

(a) what schemes have been formulated with the additional Central assistance of Rs. 10 crores provided by Ministry of Finance for prevention and control of forest fire in Garhwal and Kumaon Mandals in hilly areas;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.